sion has also been taken to improve market access for motion pictures and videos. As far as the issue of patents is concerned, attention of the United States has been drawn to the fact that this is the subject of multilateral negotiations, which have yet to be concluded.

On 26 February, 1992, the USTR announced the decision to terminate the investigation against India under Section 301.

Cases Pending in Supreme Court and C.A.T. Filed by Service and Civilian Personnel

1725. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court and C.A.T. New Delhi filed by the service and civilian personnel;

(b) whether over the period the senior officers of the defence forces as well as civilian officers of the Ministry have started seeking relief from the various courts/tribunals and their number is increasing enormously;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) (a) 234 cases in the Supreme Court and 465 cases in the CAT, New Delhi, filed by Service/Civilian personnel are presently pending adjudication.

(b) and (c). The number of cases filed have varied from year to year; there is no indication of significant progressive increase in the number of cases filed from year to year.

(d) Service officers have a right to file Statutory Complaints to the Central Government to represent their grievances. These are objectively examined by the Government for redressal of genuine grievances. Committees have also been set up in the Ministry of Defence to screen legal notices in order to reduce litigation.

Indirect Taxes Outstanding Against Companies

1726. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of indirect taxes is due from a number of companies;

(b) whether the Government propose not to allow a company, against whom the amount of tax in default or dispute is more than its net worth, to distribute any dividend/bonus until settlement of such demands/disputes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal at present.

(c) and (d). Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Trade Relations with Kuwait and Iraq

1727. SHRI E. AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures to restore the trade relations with Kuwait and Iraq in the post-Gulf war period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country suffered a loss of exports due to gulf war; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Ban on trade with Kuwait was lifted on 14th March, 1991 after her sovereignty was restored. Since then exports to Kuwait have been gradually picking up. Due to continued economic sanctions against Iraq, normal trade relations with that country cannot be restored till such time the economic sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council against Iraq are lifted. However, export of foodstuffs, medicines and items of essential civilian needs to Iraq, is permissible within the parameters of the UN Security Council resolution in this regard.

(c) and (d). As a result of the economic sanctions, exports to Iraq and Kuwait came down to Rs. 117.18 cross during 1990-91 (Prov.) as against Rs. 323.63 crores during 1989-90 (Prov.).

Export of Rice

1728. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed for export of rice; and

(b) the out come thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The inclusion of rice with in the ambit of the Exim Scrips Scheme enhanced the competitiveness of Indian rice. Export procedures have also been simplified by plaoing non-basmati rice under the Open General License and relaxing the stipulations of compulsory pre-shipment inspection.

(b) During the period from 1st April, 1991 to 31st January, 1992, the export of rice has been to the tune of 5,36,800 MTs valued at Rs. 492.89 crore.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Bench of Rajasthan High Court at Udaipur

1729. SHRI PHERU LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan to establish a bench of Rajasthan High court at Udaipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARMANGALAM): (a): No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Operation Goodwill

1730. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian army have launched operation goodwill in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof; and

(c) to what extent these objectives have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). Operation "GOODWILL" was launched by the Army in the Kashmir Valley on the 25th of December 1991. It is an ongoing civic action programme for infusing confidence amongst the local population and providing basic assistance for health, hygiene, sanitation measures etc. besides primary medical aid, a number of specialised medical camps have been organised at various places and programmes for rehabilitation of widows and destitute, repairs of school buildings, construction of bus sheds improvement of water channels, maintenance, of Ziarat, establishment of wood carving and handicraft centres, planting of saplings, construction of children parks, play grounds and organisation of sports activities have been undertaken, and public grievances and development projects have been pursued with the civil administration.

Golden Hand Shake Scheme in Banks

1731. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the 'Golden Hand Shake Scheme' to nationalised banks also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for